Obituary: Betty Jean Law

May 15, 2023



Betty Law

Betty Jean Law, former Baptist missionary and missions administrator, died April 16 in Fort Worth. She was 94. Law was born Nov. 8, 1928, in Fort Worth, where she grew up attending College Avenue Baptist Church. Through the ministry of the Baptist Student Union at what is now Texas Woman's University in Denton, she felt God's call to vocational ministry. After she and Thomas Lee Law Jr. married in 1949, they attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth before they were appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board as missionaries to Cuba. They returned to Texas in 1960, and her husband became director of missions for the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association. In 1964, the Laws and their four young sons relocated to Spain, where they served with the SBC Foreign Mission Board as church planters, mission team leaders and seminary teachers. After they returned to the United States due to her husband's health, she accepted an administrative post with the FMB in Richmond, Va., in the Western South America office. She served in a series of roles, eventually being named regional vice president for the Americas in 1990. She resigned from the FMB in 1992 and helped establish Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions. When she retired from CBF in 1996, she moved back to Fort Worth and joined Gambrell Street Baptist Church, where she was a deacon and trustee. She served on several Baptist General Convention of Texas committees and boards. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Lee Law Jr.; her sister, Dorothy Mae Freeman Morrison; and by a great-grandson, Gideon Levi Stegner. She is survived by four sons, Thomas Lee "Tom" Law III of Norman, Okla; John Richard "Dick" Law of Austin; Charles Rush Keith Law of Fort Worth; Stephen Paul "Steve" Law of Richmond; 14 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled at 1 p.m. on July 15 at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth.